

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/927,999

Examiner

Michael Pyzocha

Applicant(s)

DIAB ET AL.

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/16/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3,6-9,11,12,15-18,23,24,26-29 and 31-34.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Art Unit: 2137

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Thompson on 01/26/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Art Unit: 2137

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4-23 wherein the computerized device includes a memory that stores a magic key, and wherein the step of generating includes the steps of:
 - reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device; and
 - forming the second magic code based on the magic key and the vendor data.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of forming includes the step of:
 - performing a message-digest algorithm operation on the magic key and the vendor data.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4-23 wherein the vendor data includes a vendor identification number, a character string representing a vendor name, and a the module serial number; and wherein the step of generating includes the step of:
 - forming the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, and the module serial number.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the computerized device includes a memory that stores a magic key, and wherein the step of forming includes the steps of:
 - reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device; and

Art Unit: 2137

providing the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, the module serial number, and the magic key.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4-23 wherein the module is a small form factor pluggable component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the step of obtaining includes the step of:

reading the vendor data from the non-volatile memory of the small form factor pluggable component.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4-23 wherein the module is a GBIC communication transceiver component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the step of obtaining includes the step of:

reading the vendor data from the non-volatile memory of the GBIC communication transceiver component.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The computerized device of claim 4-24 wherein the controller includes:

a processor; and

a memory, coupled to the processor, that stores a magic key, wherein the processor is configured to generate the second magic code by (i) reading the magic key from the memory, and (ii) forming the second magic code based on the magic key and the vendor data.

12. (Original) The computerized device of claim 11 wherein the processor is configured to form the second magic code by performing a message-digest algorithm operation on the magic key and the vendor data.

Art Unit: 2137

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The computerized device of claim ~~40-24~~ wherein the vendor data includes a vendor identification number, a character string representing a vendor name, and a the module serial number, and wherein the controller is configured to generate the second magic code by forming the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, and the module serial number.

16. (Original) The computerized device of claim 15 wherein the controller includes:
a processor; and
a memory, coupled to the processor, that stores a magic key, wherein the processor is configured to form the second magic code by (i) reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device, and (ii) providing the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, the module serial number, and the magic key.

17. (Currently amended) The computerized device of claim ~~40-24~~ wherein the module is a small form factor pluggable component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the controller is configured to obtain the vendor data by reading the vendor data from the nonvolatile memory of the small form factor pluggable component.

18. (Currently amended) The computerized device of claim ~~40-24~~ wherein the module is a GBIC communication transceiver component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the controller is configured to obtain the vendor data by reading the vendor data from the nonvolatile memory of the GBIC communication transceiver component.

19. (Cancelled)

Art Unit: 2137

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein:~~ In a computerized device, a method for verifying that a module is from an approved vendor, the module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code, the method comprising the steps of:

reading the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code therefrom;

generating a second magic code based on the vendor data; and

outputting a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the step of generating includes the step of:

forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and further comprising the steps of:

obtaining a second serial number from a second module, the second module serial number being unique to the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

outputting a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches the second serial number from the second module,

and wherein:

Art Unit: 2137

the modules are respective first and second communications transceiver components;

the vendor data and first magic code are obtained from a non-volatile memory in the first communications transceiver component;

the vendor data includes data from a vendor name field, a vendor identification number field, and an error-checking field; and

the generating and outputting steps are performed as part of a magic code verification routine upon successful completion of an error-checking routine performed on the vendor data;

and further comprising the steps of:

performing the error-checking routine on the vendor data;

if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does not match the second magic code, then identifying the first communications transceiver component as not being from an an approved vendor;

if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does match the second magic code, then repeating the preceding steps ~~and the steps of claim 1~~ for the second communications transceiver component;

and further wherein:

the serial number valid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as being from an approved vendor;

the serial number invalid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as not being from an approved vendor; and

the step of outputting the serial number valid signal and serial number invalid signal is performed only if the first magic code matches the second magic code during the magic code verification routine for both the first and second communications transceiver components.

24. (Currently amended) ~~A computerized device according to claim 10, A computerized device, comprising:~~

Art Unit: 2137

a module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code; and

a controller, coupled to the module, which is configured to

read the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code from the module,

generate a second magic code based on the vendor data, and

output a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the controller is configured to generate the second magic code by forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and wherein the computerized device includes a second module, and wherein the controller is further configured to:

obtain a second serial number from the second module, the second module serial number being unique to the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

output a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match with the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches with the second serial number from the second module,

and wherein:

Art Unit: 2137

the modules are respective first and second communications transceiver components;

the vendor data and first magic code are obtained from a non-volatile memory in the first communications transceiver component;

the vendor data includes data from a vendor name field, a vendor identification number field, and an error-checking field;

the controller is configured to generate the second magic code and output the magic code valid signal and magic code invalid signal as part of a magic code verification routine upon successful completion of an error-checking routine performed on the vendor data;

and wherein the controller is further configured to:

perform the error-checking routine on the vendor data;

if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does not match the second magic code, then identify the first communications transceiver component as not being from an approved vendor;

if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does match the second magic code, then repeat the preceding steps ~~and the steps of claim 10~~ for the second communications transceiver component;

and further wherein:

the serial number valid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as being from an approved vendor;

the serial number invalid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as not being from an approved vendor; and

the step of outputting the serial number valid signal and serial number invalid signal is performed only if the first magic code matches the second magic code during the magic code verification routine for both the first and second communications transceiver components.

25. (Cancelled)

Art Unit: 2137

26. (Currently amended) ~~A computerized device according to claim 22,~~ A computerized device, comprising:

a module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code; and

a controller coupled to the module, the controller including:

means for reading the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code therefrom,

means for generating a second magic code based on the vendor data, and

means for outputting a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the means for generating includes:

means for forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and wherein the controller further includes:

means for obtaining a second serial number from a second module, the second module serial number being unique to the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

means for outputting a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches the second serial number from the second module,

and wherein:

the modules are respective first and second communications transceiver components;

Art Unit: 2137

the vendor data and magic code are obtained from a non-volatile memory in the first communications transceiver component;

the vendor data includes data from a vendor name field, a vendor identification number field, and an error-checking field;

the generating and outputting steps are performed as part of a magic code verification routine upon successful completion of an error-checking routine performed on the vendor data;

and wherein the controller further comprises:

means for performing the error-checking routine on the vendor data;

means operative if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does not match the second magic code, for identifying the first communications transceiver component as not being from an approved vendor;

means operative if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does match the second magic code, for repeating the preceding steps and the steps of claim 22 for the second communications transceiver component;

and further wherein:

the serial number valid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as being from an approved vendor;

the serial number invalid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as not being from an approved vendor; and

the outputting of the serial number valid signal and serial number invalid signal is performed only if the first magic code matches the second magic code during the magic code verification routine for both the first and second communications transceiver components.

27. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein: In a computerized device, a method for verifying that a module is from an approved vendor, the module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code, the method comprising the steps of:

reading the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code therefrom;

generating a second magic code based on the vendor data; and

outputting a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the step of generating includes the step of:

forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and further comprising the steps of:

obtaining a second serial number from a second module, the second module serial number being unique to the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

outputting a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches the second serial number from the second module,

and wherein:

the module being verified as from an approved vendor is a first module having a first module serial number, first vendor data, and first magic code;

the method is performed by a controller of a circuit board containing the first module, the circuit board being from a circuit board supplier; and

when the first module is from an approved vendor:

(1) the first module serial number is a selected one of a range of serial numbers provided to the approved vendor by the circuit board supplier;

(2) the first vendor data and first magic code are stored in the memory of the first module as specified by the circuit board supplier;

(3) ~~the a~~ magic key is provided to the approved vendor by the circuit board supplier and is not stored in the memory of the first module; and

Art Unit: 2137.

(4) the first magic code is generated by the approved vendor using the magic key and the first vendor data provided by the circuit board supplier.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein the first and second modules are both contained on the circuit board.

29. (Currently amended) ~~A computerized device according to claim 10,~~ A computerized device, comprising:

a module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code; and

a controller, coupled to the module, which is configured to

read the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code from the module,

generate a second magic code based on the vendor data, and

output a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the controller is configured to generate the second magic code by forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and wherein the computerized device includes a second module, and wherein the controller is further configured to:

obtain a second serial number from the second module, the second module serial number being unique to

Art Unit: 2137

the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

output a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match with the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches with the second serial number from the second module,

and wherein:

the module of the computerized device is a first module having a first module serial number, first vendor data, and first magic code;

the computerized device is from a computerized device supplier; and
when the first module is from an approved vendor:

(1) the first module serial number is a selected one of a range of serial numbers provided to the approved vendor by the computerized device supplier;

(2) the first vendor data and first magic code are stored in the memory of the first module as specified by the computerized device supplier;

(3) ~~the a~~ magic key is provided to the approved vendor by the computerized device supplier and is not stored in the memory of the first module;
and

(4) the first magic code is generated by the approved vendor using the magic key and the first vendor data provided by the computerized device supplier.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) ~~A computerized device according to claim 22, A computerized device, comprising:~~

a module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code; and

a controller coupled to the module, the controller including:

means for reading the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code therefrom,

means for generating a second magic code based on the vendor data, and

means for outputting a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the means for generating includes:

means for forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and wherein the controller further includes:

means for obtaining a second serial number from a second module, the second module serial number being unique to the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

means for outputting a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches the second serial number from the second module,

and wherein:

the module of the computerized device is a first module having a first module serial number, first vendor data, and first magic code;

the computerized device is from a computerized device supplier; and

when the first module is from an approved vendor:

Art Unit: 2137

(1) the first module serial number is a selected one of a range of serial numbers provided to the approved vendor by the computerized device supplier;

(2) the first vendor data and first magic code are stored in the memory of the first module as specified by the computerized device supplier;

(3) the a magic key is provided to the approved vendor by the computerized device supplier and is not stored in the memory of the first module; and

(4) the first magic code is generated by the approved vendor using the magic key and the first vendor data provided by the computerized device supplier.

32. (Currently amended) A method according to claim-4 23, wherein the externally readable memory of the module is a non-volatile memory pre-programmed with the vendor data and the first magic code prior to assembling the module into the computerized device.

33. (Currently amended) A computerized device according to claim-40 24, wherein the externally readable memory of the module is a non-volatile memory pre-programmed with the vendor data and the first magic code prior to assembling the module into the computerized device.

34. (Currently amended) A computerized device according to claim-22 26, wherein the externally readable memory of the module is a non-volatile memory pre-programmed with the vendor data and the first magic code prior to assembling the module into the computerized device.

Art Unit: 2137

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art doesn't reasonably teach the generation of a second magic code based on code validation and repeating the steps of generation if the verification routine confirms the first magic code matches the second magic code.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Pyzocha whose telephone number is (571) 272-3875. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 4:30pm first Fridays of the bi-week off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2137

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MJP